

VZCZCXRO1477  
PP RUEHROV  
DE RUEHJM #1509 2280825  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 150825Z AUG 08  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2516  
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 001509

SIPDIS

NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE. NSC FOR ABRAMS/SINGH/PASCUAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/2017  
TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#)  
SUBJECT: EAST JERUSALEM RESIDENT ARRESTED IN ON-GOING  
OWNERSHIP AND EVICTION DISPUTE

REF: A. JERUSALEM 01389  
[1](#)B. JERUSALEM 01257

Classified By: Consul General Jake Waller, per reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood resident Maher Hanoun was arrested in early August for resisting eviction from his home. Hanoun's lawyer told PolOff August 12 that he is working to free Hanoun pending resolution of the dispute over ownership of the land, but the courts have made no progress in settling the issue. Fawzieh al-Kurd, who lives nearby (Ref B), told PolOff August 12 that her family lives in constant fear of being evicted. End Summary.

Shaykh Jarrah Resident Arrested  
For Resisting Eviction  
-----

[1](#)2. (C) Maher Hanoun, a resident of the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Shaykh Jarrah, turned himself in to the Israeli police in early August after learning that Israeli courts issued a warrant for his arrest. Hanoun was jailed for 90 days, because he refused to evacuate his home after an Israeli court ordered that it be turned over to Israelis who claimed ownership. (Note: Hanoun appealed to the ConGen for help prior to his arrest, per Ref A. End note)

[1](#)3. (C) Nadia Hanoun, wife of Maher Hanoun, told PolOff August 14 that members of Fata planned an open-ended sit in at their home starting the evening of August 14, and said that she expected many to attend. She said Hanoun was transferred to the Ramla prison to serve his sentence, adding that she hoped he would be released in time for Ramadan. (Note: Ramadan begins the week of September 1st. End note)

Lawyer Wants Courts to "Freeze"  
Situation Pending Final Decision  
-----

[1](#)4. (C) Hanoun's lawyer, Salih Abu Hussein, told PolOff August 12 that he appealed to the court to release Hanoun pending a decision on ownership of the land. Abu Hussein said the documents used by the Israelis to register the land with the Israel Lands Authority (ILA) in 1972 have since been proven false. He said he appealed to the courts to review the registration in August 2006 and has asked the courts to freeze the situation until ownership is determined, which the courts have refused to do. He said no date has been set for the courts to review the registration.

Lawyer: Hanoun, al-Kurd Homes  
"Test Cases" for Future Evictions  
-----

[1](#)5. (C) Abu Hussein said the courts probably will release Hanoun only on the condition that he evacuate his house, but, if Hanoun leaves the house, it will probably be demolished to make room for a new Israeli development. Abu Hussein said the cases of Hanoun and the al-Kurd family are test cases. Other Shaykh Jarrah families fear that, if Israeli courts decide against Hanoun and al-Kurd, their homes will be targeted next.

Al-Kurd Family Still Uncertain of Future  
-----

[1](#)6. (C) Another Shaykh Jarrah resident, Fawzieh al-Kurd, told PolOff August 12 that Israeli courts have not reversed the decision to evict her family and that they live under the constant threat of being forcibly removed from their home. She said the presence of international activists and USG interest has prevented the eviction, but she fears that, once interest wanes, the Israelis will act. She repeatedly compared her case to eviction orders against Israelis, who are allowed to stay in their homes despite a court ruling.

WALLER